

Report from British Columbia

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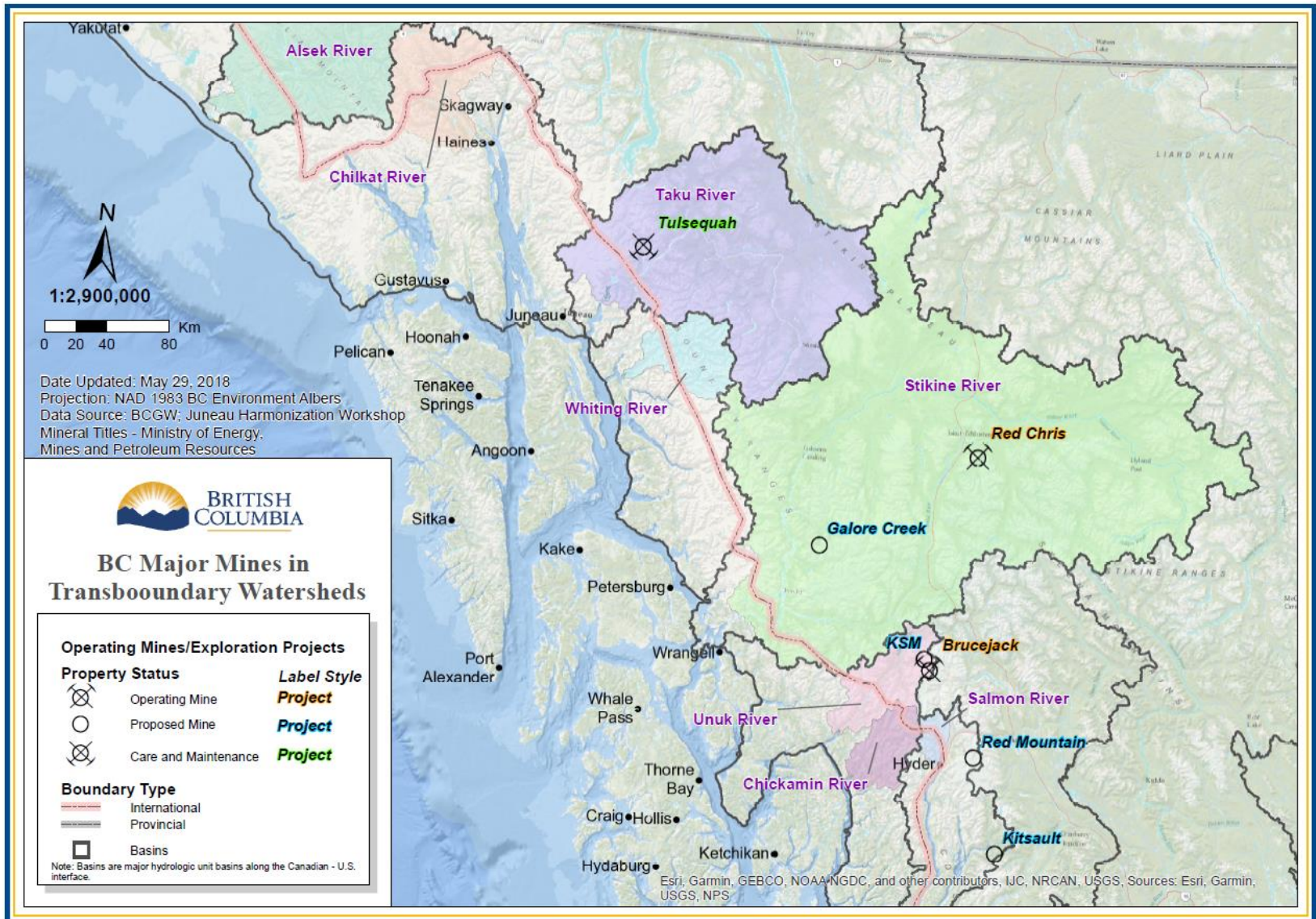
Deputy Minister

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Strategy

Overview

- Mining Projects in Northwest BC
- Recent Updates to Mining Regulation and Oversight
- Current Priorities and Initiatives
- Partnerships and Cooperation Agreements
- Key BC Activities Moving Forward
- Conclusion
- Additional Information:
 - Web Resources
 - Transboundary Project Updates

Mines in Transboundary Watersheds



Recent Updates to Regulation and Oversight

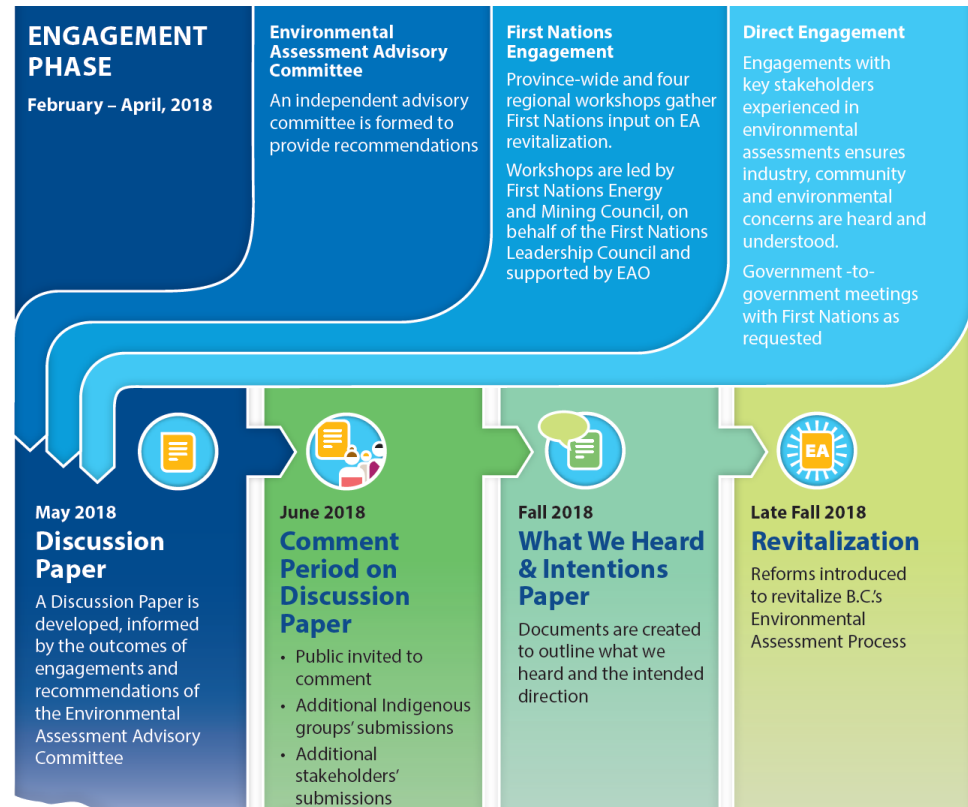
- Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR) budget lift and staff increase
- Updates to the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code
- New compliance and enforcement branch and investigations unit in EMPR
- Cross-agency coordination with Deputy Minister-level oversight
- Additional enforcement tools introduced (administrative monetary penalties up to \$500,000)
- BC Mine Information website

Current Priorities and Initiatives

- Collaborative relationships with Indigenous Peoples
 - UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action
 - 10 Draft Principles that Guide BC's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples
- Increasing public confidence
 - EMPR Independent Oversight Unit
 - Spill reporting and response regime
 - Environmental Assessment Revitalization

Environmental Assessment Revitalization

- Objectives:
 - Enhancing public confidence and meaningful participation
 - Advancing reconciliation with First Nations
 - Protecting the environment and supporting sustainable development



BC, Washington, and Montana

- BC's relationship with Alaska parallels partnerships with other American States
 - Cooperation across international borders
 - Each arrangement involves particular considerations
- BC-Washington: Transboundary Nooksack River Water Quality Task Group
- BC-Montana: Flathead Valley, Lake Koocanusa

BC-Alaska Cooperation

- Purpose
 - Mutual commitment to enhance and protect shared environment, waterways, and fisheries
- Key elements
 - Bilateral Working Group
 - Technical Working Group on Monitoring
 - Reciprocal procedures
 - Ongoing reporting, communications, engagement

BC-Alaska Initiatives

- Water quality monitoring program
- Formalization of the Reciprocal Procedures
- Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and the general public
- Transboundary Waters Newsletter

Environmental Assessment and Permitting Cooperation

- Provincial engagement with Alaska is a reciprocal procedure
 - Office of Project Management and Permitting serves as the primary contact and coordinates State participation in assessment and permitting processes
- Opportunities for input arise through formal and informal procedures
- Current participation/information-sharing: Brucejack, Red Mountain, Galore Creek, KSM

Key BC Activities Moving Forward

- Deeper engagement with Indigenous peoples and communities (ongoing)
- Independent Oversight Unit recommendations (2018)
- Environmental Assessment Revitalization reforms (fall)
- Reclamation security policy update (early 2019)
- Mining Jobs Task Force (interim report due Aug 31; final report due Nov 21)

Conclusion

- BC has a strong commitment towards responsible stewardship
- Positive interactions between the Province, Indigenous peoples, States, and the general public continue to facilitate cooperative and productive relationships
- Moving forward, we anticipate working collaboratively towards greater goals

Web Resources

BC Mine Information:

<http://mines.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>

BC-Alaska Transboundary Waters:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/compliance-enforcement/bc-alaska-transboundary-waters>